

The authors of 'Priority!' estimate that of all the publications featuring avian nomenclatural acts, some 4–6% present dating difficulties. The purpose of the book is to clarify the dating of those problematic publications and to provide a new and unambiguous source of reference for those dates to prevent future confusion. It is the kind of nomenclatural spadework that underpins taxonomy and most of the other biological sciences, but which is too often taken for granted. The product of several years of dedicated scholarship by a very skilled team including ornithologists and librarians, it has drawn on the assistance of a huge list of scientists, archivists, bibliographers and institutions, and represents a major step towards cleaning up many of the problems of dating avian names, and hence, as the title suggests, discovering which of the plethora of synonyms should be used. The first 60 pages, dealing with the Code (discussing and elucidating specific articles), and with the historical background of printing and publishing, and how to date publications, are of considerable general interest to all zoologists. These are followed by almost 200 pages of alphabetical lists of problematic publications, with discussion of, and in many cases solutions to, the associated problems. It has an extensive reference list, a good glossary, and a number of indices, as well as a CD ROM containing over 160 pages of searchable tables of supplementary data.

Many of the problematic publications resolved here also deal with taxonomic groups other than birds, increasing the book's breadth of usefulness. The authors also mention that its preparation resulted in 27 related publications, and several of the contributors have launched a new journal 'Zoological Bibliography' that deals with the same subject. I feel that, with the modern information tools and bibliographic and archival sources, now is the time to be cleaning up the nomenclatural messes of the past, and the entire zoological community, whether they know it or not, owes a debt of gratitude to those who are doing it. I think that this book belongs on the shelf of anyone with an interest in nomenclature or historical bibliography.

Corrigendum

In a recent comment by Morris and Barclay (BZN 68: 292) a third author was erroneously included. His contribution was in fact a separate comment on the same subject, which is given on p. 293 of BZN 68. His inclusion on the earlier comment was the result of a printer's error. The correct citation of the comment is: 'Morris, M.G. and Barclay, M.V.L. Comment on the proposed precedence of *Maculinea* van Eecke, 1915 over *Phengaris* Doherty, 1891 (Lepidoptera, LYCAENIDAE) (Case 3508) 1. BZN 68: 292–293'.